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Introduction to XML Schema

What you should already know

Before you study the XML Schema Language, you should have a basic understanding of XML and XML Namespaces. If you want to study these items first, please visit our [XML School](#).

XML Schemas are the successors of DTDs

XML Schema was originally proposed by Microsoft, but are now a W3C proposal. We think that very soon XML Schemas will be used in Web applications as a replacement for DTDs. Here are the reasons why:

- XML Schemas are easier to learn than DTD
- XML Schemas are extensible to future additions
- XML Schemas are richer and more useful than DTDs
- XML Schemas are written in XML
- XML Schemas support data types
- XML Schemas support namespaces

XML Schema is a W3C Working Draft

Note that XML Schema is still a W3C Working Draft. A Working Draft is always subject to changes, and the specification will not be stable before it becomes a W3C Recommendation.

However - according to the W3C Working Group - substantial changes to the specification are not anticipated, and the XML Schema specification is expected to reach a Proposed Recommendation status early this summer.

XML Schema Draft History:

Date	Action
February 9. 2000	Draft published to W3C Work Group.
February 25. 2000	Draft submitted as public draft.
April 7. 2000	Draft submitted for final call.
May 12. 2000	Expected last call.



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